



Registration form inside

Sign up now for 1997 reunion!

It's time to register for the 1997 Augusta Military Academy Reunion scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 2-3 at the Holiday Inn Golf and Conference Center in Staunton. Enclosed with this copy of *The Bayonet* is the full schedule for the reunion (page 17) and your blue registration form.

This year's reunion will pay homage to the Roller family whose love and foresight created and crafted the AMA we hold in our hearts. **Colonel Tom Roller's** daughter, **Hilton Roller Grasty**, will attend as will **General Charles Roller's** granddaughter, **Linda Moorman Roller Livick** and her husband, **Colonel Malcolm Livick**. Tom and Charles Roller, Jr. ran AMA from 1907 until Colonel Tom's death in 1946. Charles - The Big Boy - operated the school until his death in 1963, with Colonel Livick taking over from that date until 1980, three years before AMA closed.

Reunion events.

"Early birds" can register Thursday evening, May 1. Beginning at 5:30 that day, the AMA Hospitality Suite will be open. Golf and tennis are available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. A 7 PM social Friday night is the first official event, followed by dinner at 7:30 in the Grand Ballroom of the Holiday Inn. Breakfast is available at the Inn on

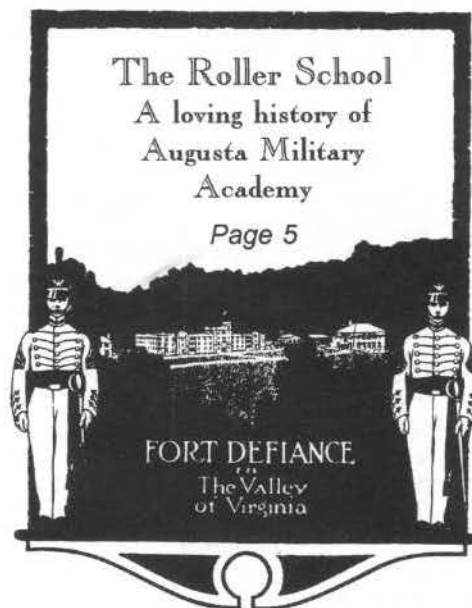
Saturday morning. The annual membership meeting will be at 10 AM where AMA Alumni Association directors are elected, and Alumni Association President **Gary Nicholson**, '70, will report. The AMA Alumni Board of Directors will meet immediately after the membership meeting, and officers of the association will be elected for the coming year.

Founder's Day at Old Stone Church

Founder's Day ceremonies will commence in the Stone Church cemetery on Saturday at 3 PM. Afterwards, alumni will be invited to visit the campus. At 6 PM Saturday, a social will precede the annual banquet at 7 PM. At the banquet, the Roller and Livick families will be honored as will the Classes of 1937, 1947, 1957, 1967, 1972, and 1977. Music will be provided by the Staunton Ovation. The winner of the AMA Legacy Scholarship will be announced at the banquet. The annual silent auction will take place before and during dinner.

Scholarship deadline

Completed applications for the annual AMA Legacy Scholarship must be received by 24 March, 1997. To receive an application, contact **Gary Nicholson**, '70, at 11971 Lexington Drive, Dunkirk, MD 20754-9263. Phone 301/855-2706.



Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.

March 1997



Dear Fellow Alumnus:

It's time for another reunion! Every year, there seem to be special new reasons to attend these wonderful get-togethers. Renewing old friendships; making new friends; visiting our school; participating in one more Founder's Day program at the Stone Church.

But I think the 1997 reunion is very special indeed. For we will salute those who made our days at Augusta possible - the Rollers and the Livicks. Starting on page 5 in this issue of *The Bayonet* is the most complete AMA history yet compiled. As you read this record of love and commitment, you must feel a strong debt of gratitude for the vision, the wisdom, the warmth, and the leadership the Roller family has exhibited since the first student sat at Professor Roller's feet in the days after the Civil War.

This is our opportunity to say thank you. **Colonel Tom Roller's** daughter, **Hilton Roller Grasty**, will attend the Saturday banquet as will **General Roller's** granddaughter, **Linda Moorman Roller Livick** and **Colonel Mal Livick**. Through them, we can express our thanks for all that AMA did for us and all that AMA means to us.

Use the enclosed registration form to sign up today. It will be a weekend to remember!

K. Gary Nicholson, '70

President, AMA Alumni Association, Inc.



Newsletter of the AMA Alumni Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 101, Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0101

Editor: Bob Bradford, '50
Circulation Manager: Ed Click, '50
Volume 97, Number 2

The *Bayonet* is distributed to alumni and friends of the Augusta Military Academy. Notice of changes of address should be sent to Alumni Records, c/o Edwin Click, Rt. 1, Box 12, Fort Defiance, VA 24437-9703. Please provide your 9-digit ZIP code!

The *Bayonet* welcomes information and articles for or about AMA alumni. Share the news of promotions, awards, retirement, births, marriages, deaths, etc. Please print or type your submission.

Mail, e-mail or FAX information to:

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e-mail: AMABayonet@aol.com
or JPWF19A@Prodigy.com

Letters to the Editor

I was shuffling through my mail the other night when, lo and behold, I came across an AMA newsletter! I was not prepared to take a leap of nearly 40 years back into the archives of my mind. I was confronted with images of spit shined shoes, spotless brass, and "get that chin in." If I had Jane Austen's pen, perhaps I could have captured the moment.

I think "God Almighty" was my first exclamatory, followed by other expletives. My wife watched in stunned silence, convinced that I had hit the lottery.

Receiving *The Bayonet* after all these years was akin to discovering a long-lost sibling after a lifetime of separation. I am indebted to **David Fechheimer** for taking the time to seek me out.

I enclose a donation to the AMA Alumni Association - a dollar for every year that I have been AWOL.

James S. Hunter, Jr., '59
Asheville, NC

Scholarship winner writes

As I journeyed through my first semester at Williams College, carrying the AMA Legacy Scholarship inspired me to pursue excellence through commitment. Lanky and completely inexperienced, I joined the novice crew team for fellowship and fitness. Crew has proven highly satisfying because it allows me to recreate productively, using my leisure time to improve myself. The elements of crew are so novel to me that I come away from each practice feeling I have surmounted some kind of completely new challenge. This confidence-building experience will help me tackle future goals optimistically. Thanks in



Albert Leatherman

(continued on page 19)

1935

George Adam ran a chemical plant in Mississippi until his retirement. *"Since then, I have played golf, haphazardly. We had 7 children who blessed us with 15 grandchildren... and we celebrated our 55th wedding anniversary here in League City, TX last November."*

Julian Quarles was treated to a surprise party on his 80th birthday 15 January. His children planned and executed the party in Coral Gables, FL. *"I walked in thinking we were having a quiet dinner with friends, and instead found a huge gathering of old friends and law clients."* Julian plans to attend the AMA Alumni Reunion in May.

1938

Larry Kurtz has a brand new e-mail address: NP2AO@juno.com

1939

V. P. Leavel is in the VA Hospital in Richmond. His message to all his friends: *"God bless us, everyone!"* Contact V.P. through his daughter Tighe Forbes at 110 Buckingham Drive, Yorktown, VA 23692. Phone 757/898-1300. God bless you, V.P.!

1943

John "Monk" Younger writes from East Point, GA that his daughter, Dr. Lucy Dirr, is a neurologist in Columbia, TN. Monk is a gun collector and has been in touch with **Bill Brooks**, '62, who has a militaria business in Montgomery, AL.

Bob Guggenheimer writes from his home in Madrid, Spain that *"my groups of Elderhostelers always ask me for my 'life story,' and I always tell them about the military school I attended near Staunton, Virginia. Imagine my surprise when a lady in the front row raised her hand and said, 'My Dad taught history at AMA and coached basketball there.' I believe his name was Joe Stone... who came to AMA in 1944."*

1946

Jimmy Dean sells real estate for Century 21 in Largo, FL. He also is a



forest farmer, growing trees in Alabama for pulpwood and saw timber. His Mother just passed away last November at age 96½.

1947

Harry May and Jane recently spent a week in Scottsdale, AZ, playing golf and attending a classic car auction. He has fully recovered from knee replacement surgery. The Mays live in Reston, VA.

Edwin Childs retired in March of '94, and now consults with steel plant refractories. Ed, who lives in Lawton, OH, golfs and travels often.

1948

Paul Bratton's dear wife, Ruby, is undergoing chemotherapy treatments again. We're praying for you, Ruby.

Fourth Pulitzer nomination for Jerry Izenberg

Jerry Izenberg, '47, has just received his fourth nomination for a Pulitzer Prize in sports reporting. Details in the next Bayonet.

1949

Bill Dickinson went on a cruise in January. His new e-mail address is wdickin@pa.net

John Marozza lives in Severna Park, MD and breeds thoroughbred horses on his farm in Pennsylvania. John has had several careers - worked in road construction, prospected for uranium, drove a bus, worked in an aircraft factory, and was a police officer in Baltimore. He worked for a detective agency and as head of security for a hotel before beginning to transport horses up and down the east coast. He coached semi-pro football, taught fencing at the local YMCA, and has been involved with Little League football. He and Mary have been married for 40 years and have three sons and two grandchildren.

1951

Ralph "Rip" Parker has retired from Union Oil, and has moved to Newport News from Knoxville, TN.

John Core and Ann visited **Hap Starr** and Mary Ann in the Virgin Islands in mid-February. Hap writes that his house, badly damaged in a 1995 hurricane, is nearing the completion of repairs. *"Time heals all wounds..."*

1957

Dave Merenick checks in from Pittsburgh where he is a manufacturer's representative for engineering, construction, chemical, steel and power industries around the country. Dave works for Rice-Pittsburgh. His e-mail address: DAMPR@aol.com

Lee Steele is President of DALB, a commercial graphics company he founded in 1981 in Charles Town, WV. He has three children: Kevin has worked for his Dad since he graduated from college; Brian works for Lee's father; and Colleen is about to graduate from Shenandoah University with a degree in physical therapy. *"Best of all, Kevin's wife is about to make me a grandfather!"*

1958

Duke Fancher travelled to Indonesia

and Java last fall and "was actually looking up at the mountains circling the city of Yogyakarta when the local volcano decided to belch. The tourists reached for their cameras, or the exit... the locals ignored it." Duke spent Thanksgiving week in Honolulu.

1959

Jim Hunter has just learned that there is an AMA Alumni Association, alive and well! He was "found" by **David Fechheimer**, and Jim was delighted to receive his first *Bayonet* since he left Augusta. "Summarizing my last 40 years is really not too difficult: two colleges, two wives, two sons. I opened a men's clothing store (in Asheville, NC) in 1971." Thanks for your generous donation to the alumni association, Jim.

1960

George Holt has offered to make a \$10 contribution to the AMA Alumni Association for every member of the Class of 1960 who attends the May 2-3 reunion in Staunton. Sign up now, fellows, and we'll bill George later!

Frank Williamson has located **Bob Gevrekian** and has sent Bob's address to the Alumni Association. Thanks, Frank. We look forward to seeing you at the reunion in May!

Bob White's new e-mail address is: Susiebob@aol.com

1961

David Curl sends his e-mail address from Norfolk: Litnin777@aol.com

1962

Paul Taliaferro manages the engineering services group at M/A-COM Government Products, building microwave receivers for the intelligence gathering industry. He lives in Winchester with his wife of 32 years, Barbara. They have four sons, a daughter, and six grandchildren. Paul served in the Air Force and was an air traffic controller before being "fired" by President Reagan in 1981.

Aquiles (Rod) Rodriguez owns a horse farm in Loxahatchee, FL. e-mail at: RamFarm1@aol.com

Hilton Roller Grasty reported improved

Hilton Roller Grasty, Colonel Tom Roller's daughter, continues to improve after having suffered a broken neck in a car accident just before Christmas.

Fortunately, there was no paralysis, and the treatment has been the wearing of an uncomfortable neck brace. Hilton is so much better that she plans to take her annual trip to Europe this Spring, returning in time for the May alumni reunion at which her father will be honored.

1963

Claudio "Ray" Sanchez is a regulatory analyst/economist for the Office of the Attorney General in Austin, TX. Ray, his wife, and two daughters live in nearby Pflugerville with their "zoo" - a Siberian husky and Mr. Goldfish who has a 20 gallon tank to himself. e-mail: laesquina@sprintmail.com

1964

Randy Rodgers owns Hayes Auto and Truck Sales in Hayes, VA, near Gloucester Point. He is part owner of a motel in Williamsburg. Randy has three children: Randy, Jr. (Chip), 30; Keith, 28; and Bradley, 12.

1967

Alan Poole has been fighting fires in temperatures of 32° below zero and a wind chill of minus 76°! His home is in Minot, ND, and this is his 20th year as a fire fighter. He is counting on good weather in May when he travels all the way from North Dakota for the AMA Alumni Reunion.

Steve Matton has a new e-mail address: era-sjm@juno.com

1972

Harry Angus Baldwin has been missing to the AMA Alumni Association for a long time, but we're glad to say that he's back in the fold. Harry's address: Route 1, Box 255G, Swoope, VA 24479-9602. Phone 540/885-5779. Harry is a physician assistant and he works in Richmond three days a week. The rest of the time is spent on

his farm where he does it the old fashioned way - with draft horses. The Baldwins have a 18 month old son, who is the delight of their lives.

Reed Nettles new e-mail address is: MCAVP@aol.com

Blaine Clarke is a clinical social worker in private practice conducting therapy with adolescents and their families in Rockville and Frederick, MD. He and his wife Julie have a son, Joey, 11, and a daughter, Maggie, 2. He hopes to find other alumni who would like to go clay shooting during the May reunion. Blaine keeps in touch with **Steve Traylor**, **Bruce Crum**, and **Bruce Strange**. His e-mail address is: nuroses@aol.com

1974

Lars Steib, Jr. and wife Laura are expecting a new baby in May. Lars has started a new subsidiary of his construction company that deals strictly in concrete. e-mail address: JebBuild.com

1979

Mike Sumichrast has located **Chris Hart, '73**, and we now have Chris on *The Bayonet* mailing list. Thanks, Mike. Mike works for MCI in Colorado Springs in Intelligent Network Engineering Development, working closely with British Telecom. He has four children: Michael, Annie, Ryane, and Lindsey, and finds time to snowboard and mountain bike often. e-mail Mike at: msumichrast@mcimail.com

1981

Captain Todd Livick send us his new e-mail address from Fort Bragg, NC: ATLivick@aol.com

★ GOT e-mail?

★ GOT a FAX?

★ GOT 32 cents?

Send in news for the next *Bayonet*!

e-mail: AMABayonet@aol.com

FAX: 510/838-0928

Mail: 1325 Virginia Street
Danville, CA 94526-1241

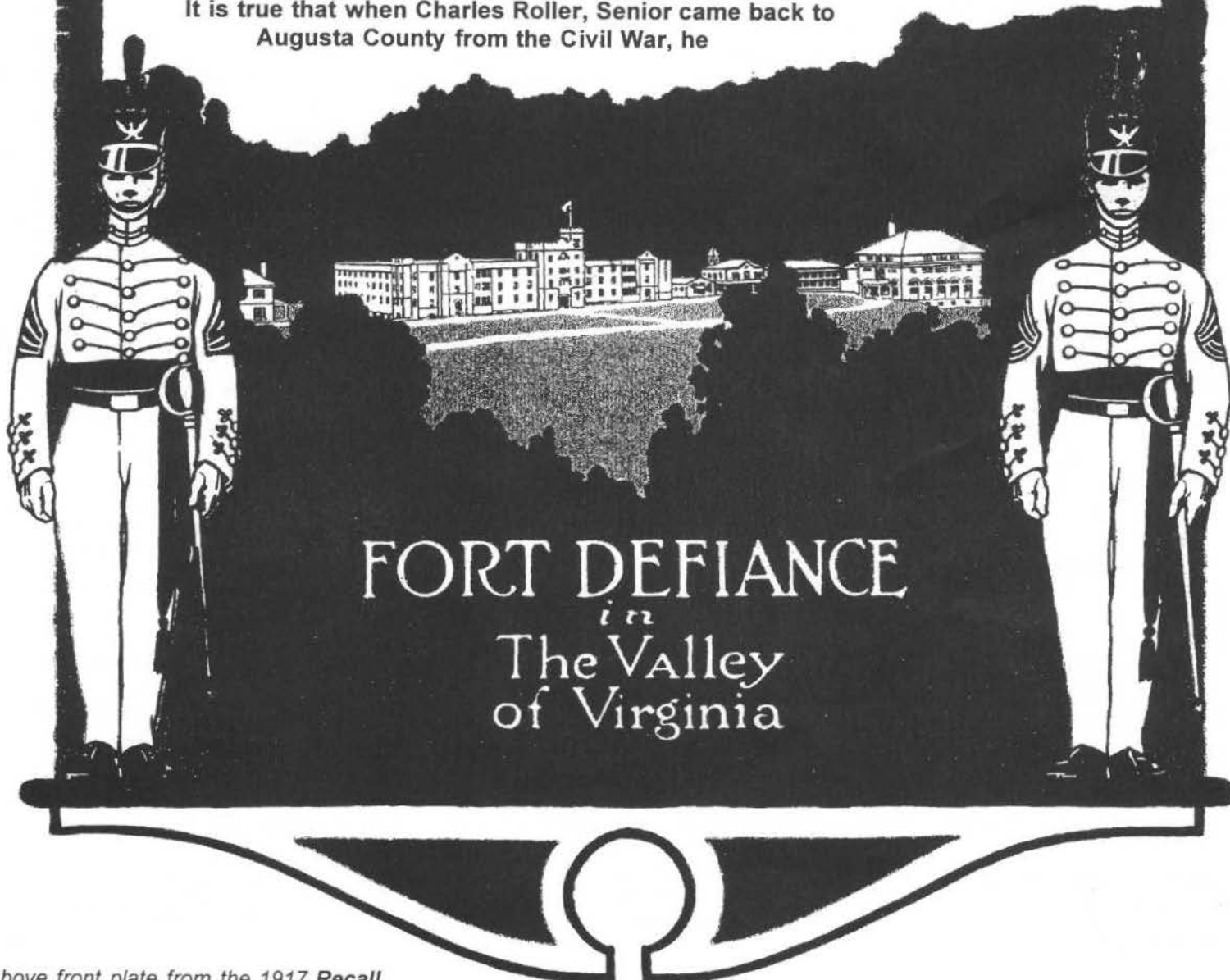
The Roller School

A loving history of Augusta Military Academy

Postcards distributed by Augusta Military Academy in 1953 said AMA was "more than 200 years old." In 1993, a Lynchburg newspaper said that AMA had been founded "in Fort Defiance 33 years before the Revolutionary War," at about the same time that the Old Stone Church was built in 1742. Interesting, since AMA's undisputed founder, **Charles Summerville Roller**, was not born until 1839!

The school officially celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 1965.

It is true that when Charles Roller, Senior came back to Augusta County from the Civil War, he



Above front plate from the 1917 Recall

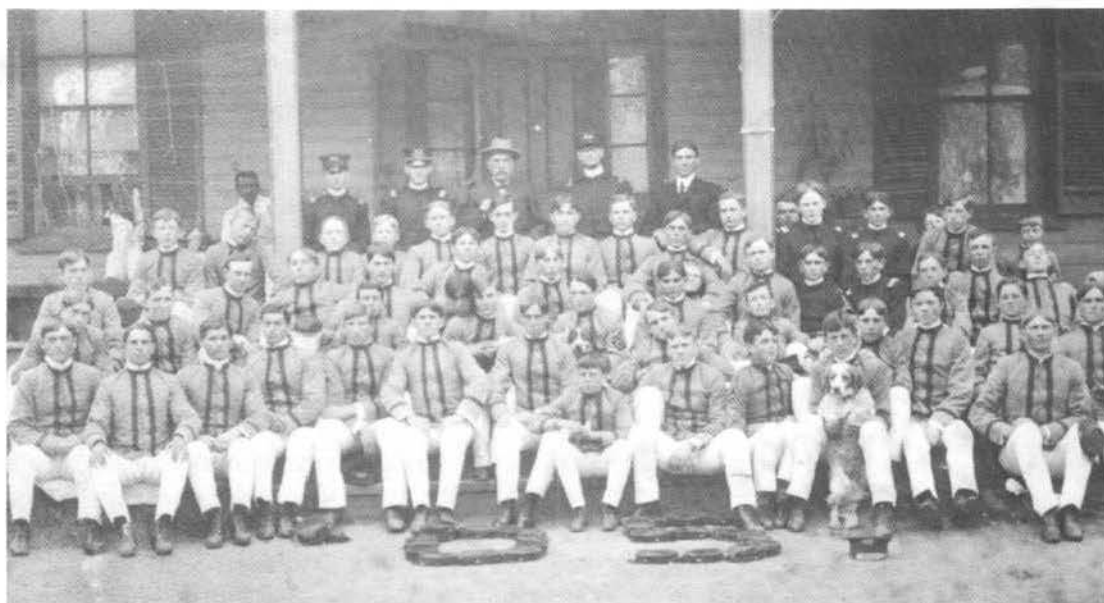
tutored some young Confederate veterans, possibly in Mount Sidney (where he had gone to school), or in a brick building behind the Stone Church, or in a log schoolhouse believed to have been located near the old cemetery across Route 11 from the church. But we also know that Professor Roller served in the Virginia General Assembly from 1871-74. He established the Augusta Male Academy at his new home on the site of the school we knew, in the house between the mess hall and Deane's Castle, in 1879. In the school year 1879-80, Professor Roller listed 15 boarders and some 30 day students at his new school at Fort Defiance.

Colonel Will Parkins, '35, a longtime member of the AMA staff, has a copy of the valedictory given by his uncle, **Nathan Parkins, Class of 1882**, in which young Nathan salutes the principal "who is bidding farewell to his pupils." This statement conforms with the story that Professor Roller served as Superintendent of the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind (VSDB) in Staunton during 1882-83. While serving at VSDB, he probably left the management of his Fort Defiance school in the hands of his brother, **H. Sheffey Roller**.

AMA Faculty historian **Emmett "Dusty" Rhoades** thinks that AMA actually began around 1874. **Ed Click, '50**, who has researched some public records, says that Professor Roller, who had attended the University of Virginia before the Civil War, did begin tutoring students as early as 1865. "He called his school the Augusta Male Classical Academy, and he probably continued his principalship during his brief service in the State Legislature. But it was 1879 when the Professor opened the Augusta Male Academy at his new home on the present AMA campus."

Linda Roller Livick, General Charles S. Roller, Jr's granddaughter, also picks 1879 as the founding date for AMA. "Before that time, my great-grandfather tutored many young men, but the family records seem to point to 1879 as the founding date of Augusta Male Academy, which became Augusta Military Academy sometime around 1890." Linda thinks that in the school's early days, her great-grandmother probably cooked for the students, even those who stayed in rooms with nearby neighbors.

Whatever year is selected, Augusta Military Academy was the oldest of the seven military prep schools which existed



The Augusta Military Academy Class of 1905. Seated in the back row, center, in the civilian hat, is Professor Charles Summerville Roller, founder of AMA.

in Virginia (the others were Fishburne, Fork Union, Hargrave, Massanutten, Randolph-Macon, and Staunton).

In 1993, **Hugh Harmon, '58**, located a document which outlined the service of Charles Summerville Roller during the Civil War. The *State of Virginia Regimental Histories Series* lists Roller as a Private in Company E, 1st Virginia Cavalry, commanded by General J.E.B. Stuart. Roller's service is described: "Enlisted at Fairfax Courthouse July 24, 1861; Wounded in action near Appomattox Courthouse April 8, 1865; Surrendered Appomattox April 9, 1865... Founder of Augusta Military Academy..." Professor Roller believed that the South had been "properly whipped in the highest court — armed conflict," and he joined many Southerners who worked to rebuild their communities. In one act of political courage, he joined the Republican Party, following which he was elected to serve in the Virginia General Assembly. Even though he was to found and lead a great military school, Professor Roller, the "Old Boss," never affected a military title or donned a uniform after Appomattox. He adapted the military format for his school because he thought it the best suited to train young men for responsible lives as good citizens.

By 1887, there were 55 boarders at the Roller school, 18 of whom were from Texas. The first football game at Augusta was played that year and in, 1894, a frame gymnasium was erected so that basketball, indoor baseball and gymnastics could be offered.

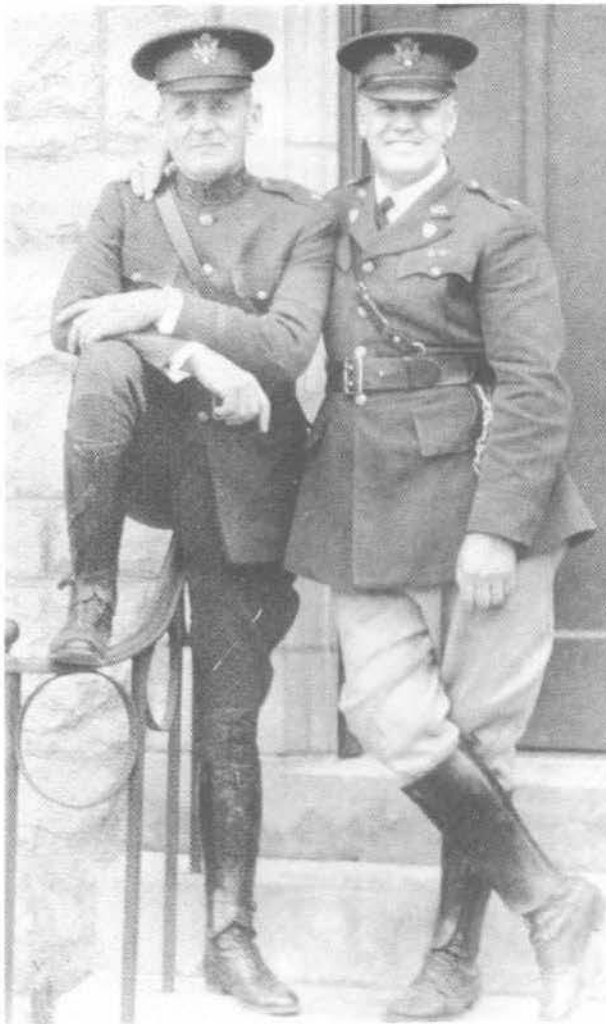
Professor Roller's health began to deteriorate in the early 1900's. As he was able to do less, he asked two of his sons to return to Fort Defiance. **Thomas Roller** was a classical scholar who had graduated from the University of

Virginia, had taught classical language at the University of Memphis, and was considering a career as a lawyer. **Charles S. Roller, Jr.** had graduated from VMI in 1901, where he roomed with the late **General George Marshall** and where he still is remembered for his football prowess. Charles was teaching and coaching football at Furman.

Thad Lora, '48, has the 1905-06 AMA catalog which his grandfather obtained, and which convinced him to send Thad's father to Augusta. The catalog welcomed Tom and Charles Roller to Augusta, Professor Roller writing that his two sons *"have in measure assumed the responsibilities and management of the Augusta Military Academy... I am confident that the addition of these two young gentlemen, both of whom have had ample experience in schoolwork, will see the Academy continue to increase in the fair name and reputation it has enjoyed for the past 31 years."* (Note: Written in 1905, the reference to "31 years" would indicate that Professor Roller dated AMA's founding to 1874, which agrees with Dusty Rhoades' estimate.)

By 1905, enrollment had increased to 88, and for the first time it became compulsory for students to wear uniforms at all times. Professor Roller died intestate on 26 August 1907 at the age of 68; 300 alumni gathered at the Augusta Stone Church to pay tribute to AMA's founder. He left a widow, his four children, and the school. **Dr. William Roller**, the oldest son, already had established a career in medicine. **Maggie Bell** was married to **Lieutenant Colonel Warren "Mike" Robinson**, an AMA faculty member until his death in 1947. The Robinsons lived in the Roller home on campus, which, in later days, became the Library. Maggie Bell was always active in school affairs, particularly the YMCA, until her death in 1956 at age 80. It fell to Thomas and Charles, Jr. to lead Augusta through two World Wars and the Great Depression.

Thomas Jacob Roller (Colonel Tom) was described by one of his faculty members as "a very great teacher." **Major Herbert Jacob** wrote that Tom Roller "inherited the love of languages from his father... He was a careful and



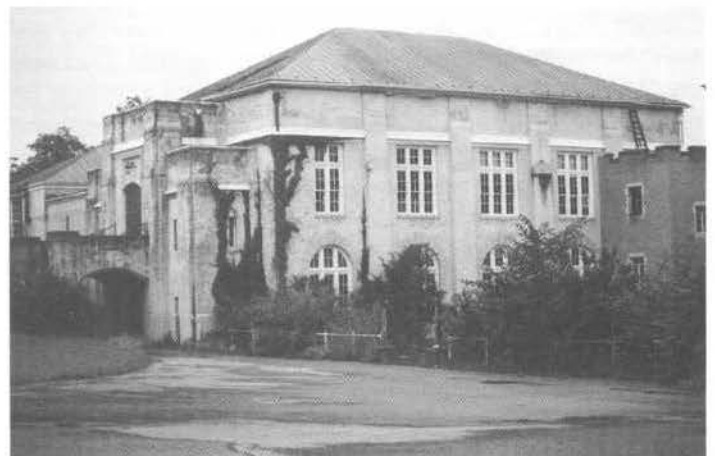
Colonel Thomas J. Roller and Major Charles S. Roller, Jr., circa 1930.

painstaking instructor... exacting in every detail... All Colonel asked for was results. If (his teachers) produced, you heard nothing from him, but if you failed, you were called in for a session. He never held himself up for emulation, but he always gave you the experiences he had gained from his father (who) was a great teacher."

Colonel Tom met Virginia Greider at Mary Baldwin, fell in love with her, and married her. Virginia was a Roanoke native whose father had been transferred to New York City. Wanting his daughter to have a Virginia education, he had sent her to Mary Baldwin, where she met Tom Roller. Colonel Tom and Virginia had two children: Virginia Hilton Roller, who married **Louis Somerville, '34**, and after his death, Thomas Grasty (**Hilton Roller Grasty** lives in Charlottesville today); and **Thomas J. Roller, Jr.**, who attended AMA, and briefly taught and coached swimming there during the 1947-49 school years before moving West. Colonel Tom and his family lived at Beaumont, the beautiful white house built in 1912 next to the

campus just south of the Clay Bowl.

Charles courted **Janet Campbell Stephenson**, who lived in Monterey. He often rode a buckboard to see her, and returned the same day, a long ride over the mountain

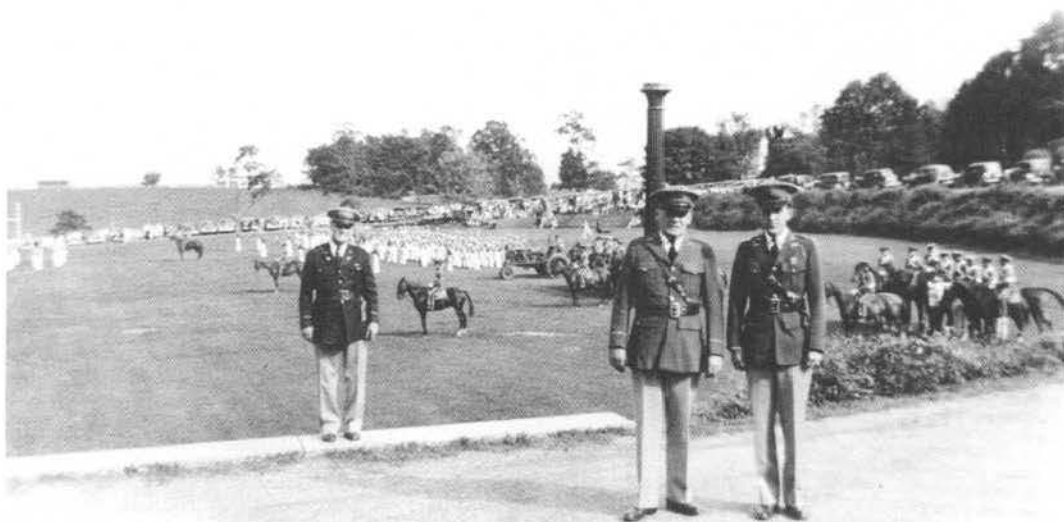


In 1909, the academic building was constructed, and what later became the Big Room was a gymnasium for nearly 20 years.

roads of the early 1900's. He married Janet - "The Boss" - in 1909, and in 1914 moved into newly constructed White Hall, familiar to every AMA cadet. Another project was begun about the same time. Big Barracks accepted its first cadets in 1915, having been built for \$50,000.

Charles (The Big Boy) and Janet had two children - **Lewis Stephenson Roller**, who died at birth, and **Charles (Charley) S. Roller, III**. Charley graduated from AMA, attended VMI, and taught and coached at Augusta until his death. Charley married Linda Todd and they had two

arch. "Major probably knew every single cadet by name," says Hilton. "He was very close to the boys. Colonel Tom was more reserved, not shy, but retiring with the Corps. At home, he was warm and a fun-loving jokester, but when he stepped out of Beaumont in his uniform, he was Colonel Roller!" The Colonel was an avid outdoorsman - a hunter and a fisherman who often went to Canada in pursuit of game. Major Roller was a military disciplinarian and an avid horseman who reviewed the Corps of Cadets from horseback for many years.



This picture was taken just before World War II, probably in 1940. Augusta's cavalry troop stands ready at a dress parade. At the left, is Major Roller - the Big Boy. In the center stands Colonel Tom Roller, and next to him, his son, Thomas A. Roller.

children; Charles IV died in 1935 when only four weeks old, and **Linda Moorman Roller** who later married **Malcolm Harris Livick**.

During the years that Thomas J. and Charles S. Roller, Jr. ran Augusta, Tom was referred to simply as "Colonel" and Charles was called "Major", or "Brass." Hilton Roller Grasty remembers that her father, Colonel Tom, and Major Charles Roller "had such different interests that they got along famously while running the school together. Dad was interested in academics and the business end of things; he served two terms as President of the Military Schools and Colleges of the United States, showing the great respect AMA had. He was an eloquent speaker, often giving the commencement address at Augusta, as well as handing out the diplomas. Major had more interest in the military, athletics, and student activities. He always gave out the athletic awards and Ad Astra memberships at Finals. Each man seemed content to let the other do what he knew best."

Colonel Tom's office was inside the door to the right, as you faced Big Barracks. Major Charles was the Commandant of Cadets and had his office just off the front

America went to World War I in 1917, and *The History of Augusta County* tells the story that on a spring day in 1918, Major Charles Roller "parked his big car at Hogshead's Drugstore (the main intersection in Staunton) and fired several shots in the air. A crowd gathered and he introduced... Judge Henry Holt," and together they exhorted the assembled citizenry to buy Liberty Bonds and otherwise support the war effort. Many single AMA faculty members resigned to volunteer for service, and the senior class took over some of the teaching duties in the 1917-18 school year. More than 500 AMA alumni are believed to have served in World War I, and nine

Augusta boys made the supreme sacrifice.

The Roller brothers decided that one should go into the service while the other stayed behind to run AMA. "I always heard that Major and my Dad drew straws to see who would go off to the war," Hilton recalls. It was Charles who went, serving as a captain in the American Red Cross Ambulance Corps, attached to the 89th Division. He soon was sent to France, where, at the war's end on 11 November 1918, he was on the Meuse River. Years later when an AMA boy visited White Hall, Major/Colonel/General Roller would shake a canteen so that the duly impressed cadet could hear the water from the Meuse River, collected on the day World War I ended, slosh around inside the sealed container. On his way home on a troop ship, Charles S. Roller, Jr. first formed in his mind the idea of the Ad Astra per Aspera Society which came into being in 1926.

Colonel Tom ran the school while Charles was away, and Colonel Jacob was acting commandant. The 1917 yearbook was a much reduced publication just 5" by 8" in size with the notation, "There's a war on!" When the war ended, the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) was begun at AMA and the

school's reputation continued to grow as a country bastion where learning was the first item of business. In 1919, the cadet waiter system was inaugurated and countless boys were able to attend Augusta as "CW's" over the next 64 years.

The Rollers were moving forces in boosting Augusta County from the mid-twenties until Charles Roller's death in 1963. Tom was vice president of the Staunton National Bank, a director of the Augusta-Rockingham Bank, and served as Chairman of the Augusta County School Board. It was through his efforts that many of the one and two-room country schools in the county were replaced by larger schools offering more academic opportunities. In the twenties, Charles supported road construction and better rail service to Augusta County through an organization called Shenandoah Valley Incorporated.

Then, in October of 1929, the stock market crashed, and thus began what would later be called "The Great Depression." Bank loans were called; in some places, there were no jobs to be had; Wall Street bankers were reduced to selling apples on street corners. "These were poor, lean times for AMA," Hilton remembers. The Rollers tried to keep the Augusta faculty and staff fully employed, though they were forced to let some go while others took cuts in pay. The Rollers allowed some boys who could not pay tuition to attend classes in return for work performed. They began to raise more of their own food, starting a chicken farm by the river near Verona, and Colonel Tom and Major Charles both went on the road to recruit students. "I was attending school in Washington," Hilton recalls, "and Dad would call and say, 'Well, we got two boys to sign up this week'... The times were very difficult." In 1930, Colonel Tom was singularly honored when Hampden-Sydney bestowed upon him membership in the national honorary fraternity Omicron Delta Kappa in recognition of his outstanding contributions to education.

Young Charles (Charley) Roller embodied all of The Big Boy's hopes that he would, in his Dad's words, "follow his father as co-principal one day." He taught at Augusta, and was AMA's basketball coach, but those dreams ended on 21 February 1938 when Charley died in an automobile accident near Verona. "His father never went to a basketball game in the gym after Charley died," Mal Livick recalls. Major Roller wrote on Charley's page in the Ad Astra book: "My boy, with the sweet smile on his face, will never, never come back. 'Charley Boy,' happy landing, and may we meet again."

When Charley died, Major Roller assumed his paternal duties, and Linda Moorman and her mother lived for a while at White Hall. Major sent young Linda Moorman to

college in South Carolina, and oversaw her rearing; she always called him "Daddy." In 1943, Linda Moorman's mother married **Sam Wales, '38**, and young Linda and her mother moved to Pennygreen, the farm behind the Old Stone Church. Sam had many positions at Augusta during his career, including being Commandant of Cadets for a number of years. Linda Roller Wales died in 1966, and Colonel Wales died in 1991.



Hilton Roller Grasty, from the 1930 Recall.

The Depression slowly receded as America once more geared for war. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Augusta boys again went off to battle. Hilton remembers that there were "very sad days around the campus when we would hear that one of our AMA boys was not going to be coming home." In fact, 52 AMA cadets were killed in action in World War II, an astounding number considering the size of the school.

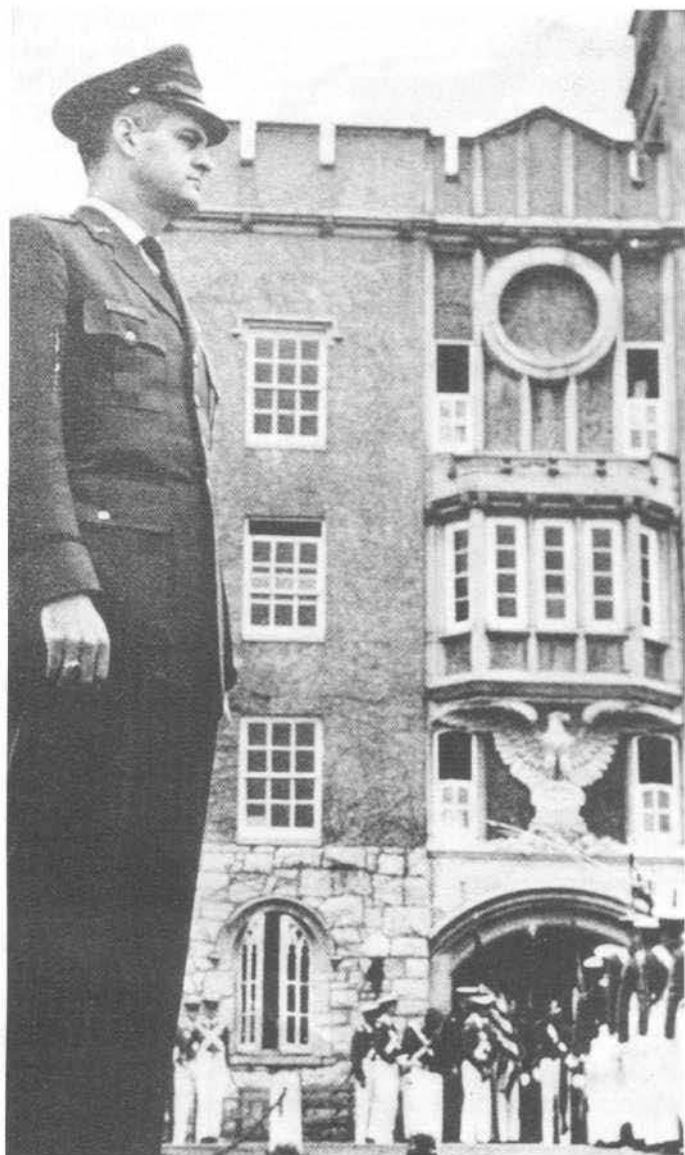
In the first year of World War II, Colonel Tom lost his beloved Virginia to cancer. "He was never the same after that," says Hilton. "His heart was broken, I think. He was not ever well after Mother died. He cut back on both his classroom and administrative duties", and in March of 1946, he went to his son Tom's home in

Coral Gables to rest and recuperate. While there, he fell desperately ill and had to be hospitalized. Major and Hilton Roller drove to Washington, DC to take a plane to Florida, only to learn at the airport that Colonel Tom had passed away earlier in the day. Hilton returned to Fort Defiance to make funeral arrangements for her father while Major made the first plane flight of his life to bring his brother home. Colonel Thomas J. Roller was 68 years old, the same age at which his father had died.

Colonel Jacob wrote that Colonel Tom "was a scholar, benefactor and gentleman... Ask the orphans in Lynchburg for whom he annually sponsored a dinner. Ask the members of the Old Stone Church who will always remember that he added to the beauty of the church and the cemetery, the latter being considered a memorial to him... Ask his students who went on to excel in the world..." (See Colonel Tom's obituary on page 14)

Hilton had married **Louie Somerville, '34'**, and he was overseas serving in the armed forces. She had moved back to Fort Defiance to be with her father after her mother had died, and her brother Tom returned to Fort Defiance

¹ At some point in time, Charles Summerville Roller, Jr. - the Big Boy - began to sign his name Charles *Somerville* Roller, Jr.. The changed spelling of his middle name has led to much confusion with the Somerville family who had three boys attend Augusta - **Louie, '34**, who was married to Colonel Tom's daughter Hilton, **Winston, '36**, and **Fenton, '37**.



Colonel Malcolm Livick reviews the Corps, 1965

after Colonel Tom passed away. Tom taught for most of two years at AMA and he, his family, and Hilton all lived at Beaumont, "but Tom was not interested in teaching," says Hilton. "He wanted to sell the house, and move on. And we did. Tom moved to Colorado and eventually on to California, and I moved to Charlottesville with my husband." In 1948, the Big Boy bought Colonel Tom's share of Augusta from his heirs.

The late '40's and early '50's saw remarkable stability in enrollment and Charles Roller, now a colonel, continued to build his reputation as a man who never knew a bad boy. In 1946, a new science building was completed. In the immediate post-war years, attendance at Augusta was augmented by veterans coming back to complete their disrupted education. "These boys who had been in the service brought a maturity to the Corps," says Hilton. "Some of them had seen things that changed them from boys to men in a single day." AMA also became a sort of post graduate school for high school athletes, not quite ready for college academics, but big and strong enough to

win the national military prep school football championships for AMA in the 1947 and 1948 Orchid Bowls.

Malcolm Livick is a native of Augusta County who attended Hampden-Sydney one year, then the University of Virginia, before spending four years in the Air Force. He very much wanted to teach and coach, and was offered such a position in the public schools in Bath County, VA. Mal's brother and father both had been day students at AMA, and when Mal saw a magazine advertisement for Augusta, he wrote a letter to Colonel Roller to see if there might be an opening. "Colonel Roller was almost more interested in whether I was one of the Augusta County Livicks than he was in my teaching and coaching credentials," says Mal.

So, there was Mal, in 1955, standing at the front arch in civilian clothes, looking for Colonel Roller. "Colonel **Savage** thought I was a salesman, but after I convinced him that I was a new faculty member, he took me to see Colonel Roller and **Colonel Deane** in Colonel Roller's office. I was given the assignment of teaching 7th grade, and coaching JV basketball, plus being assistant football coach." Mal later also coached tennis and baseball.

On Thanksgiving of 1955, the Blue and White played the annual football game with Fishburne and Mal left after the game to pick up his date for the Thanksgiving dance. "My date lived beyond Waynesboro on Afton Mountain, and we were late getting to the dance. I thought we could slip in without having Colonel Roller notice us, but the cadets cheered when we came in, and we were given away. I told my date that I had better dance with the boss's granddaughter, and that was my first dance with Linda."

Linda says that, "After church on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, I showed up for inspection. I did not do this often; I really went to inspect Mal!" Mal and Linda began to date, but when the subject of marriage was broached, the



The Big Boy's wife, Janet, with her granddaughter, Linda Moorman Roller, in a photo taken by Lewis Munda, '26, in 1951.

Colonel put his foot down. At the end of the 1955-56 school year, Mal resigned from the faculty, and, much against Colonel Roller's wishes, he and Linda eloped that summer. This past July, they celebrated their 40th anniversary.

Mal took a position in the school system at Virginia Beach in the fall of 1956, and things remained tense between the Big Boy and the Livicks. But, as his health began to fail in 1958, Colonel Roller wrote to Mal and asked him to come back to AMA, just as Professor Roller had summoned Charles Jr. a half century earlier. Colonel Roller promised that he would never again speak about their misunderstanding. "And he never did," said Mal. In the fall of 1958, Mal and Linda came back to Fort Defiance, with Mal serving as assistant principal. About this time, Roller was promoted to brigadier general in the Virginia State Guard.

Those who remember Charles Roller, Jr. recall his boundless energy. Not only did he run the school and teach chemistry and college algebra, he ran the farms that supported the school. His personal touch was everywhere. Bouncing along in his 1936 Dodge, "The Grey Ghost", horn beeping impatiently, he would leave written instructions for his farm manager, and notes for faculty members and staff. If a boy broke a window, he had to write a note to Colonel Roller to have the window repaired. And the colonel, and later the general, would answer these notes on his midnight visits to barracks. Then, he would bounce into his fourth period class in the Big Room with a booming, "Good morning, boys!", having, on his way from Big Barracks, picked up tiny specks of paper that would have eluded eyes less well trained. Occasionally, he would find a discarded cigarette, declaring, "I would rather find a rattlesnake than a cigarette butt," which put him slightly ahead of his time on the subject of tobacco.

"I tried to take over some of these duties from the General, but he would have none of it," said Mal. "But as time went on, he would let me do some of these things, once in a while at first, then, more often..." In 1961, General Roller fell ill. Perhaps, it was a small stroke; Will Parkins remembered that the General had phlebitis. But after great concern for his life, he rallied and resumed many of his duties. In 1962, Mrs. Roller had a major stroke and was hospitalized for some time. She came home to recover, and continued to show improvement. On 14 March 1963, General Roller led the Corps in fifteen cheers for the national champion AMA rifle team and for the undefeated fencing team. That day, he also authorized construction of



Possibly the last picture made of General Roller, February of 1963, in the Big Room. Can anyone identify the cadets in the picture?

a new language laboratory On 15 March, Linda visited her grandparents and found Mrs. Roller resting comfortably and General Roller in good spirits.

The next morning, Will Parkins had a call from White Hall; the General had collapsed while shaving. Mal was summoned from his classroom and **Dr. William Painter**, the school physician, arrived at White Hall with the school nurse, **Molly Canevet**. Through the day and into the evening, the vigil continued. "You could tell that he was fighting," Linda remembers, but near 11 PM on 16 March 1963, with Linda holding his hand, the Big Boy was gone. He was 83 years old.

On the day of the funeral, the heavens wept. An honor guard of cadets escorted the General from White Hall down the drive to the Valley Pike. The hearse rolled slowly past the main gate with the AMA color guard leading the way. So large was the congregation attending the funeral that not all of the Corps could get into the Stone Church, and many stood in

the rain while the service progressed inside the ancient walls. The Big Boy was laid to rest near the graves of his parents, his brother Colonel Tom Roller, and his son, Charles S. Roller, III. At his request, the family stayed until the last shovel of moist earth was put in place. The



The Corps of Cadets marches in silence to the Stone Church accompanying General Roller on his last trip past AMA, the rain a perfect mirror of emotion.

inscription on his tombstone reads, *"As the shadows lengthen tonight, the sun will set on an empty barracks, but your memories will soar with you for eternity.... goodbye."*

The day after the funeral, Colonel Livick entered the mess hall and a cadet officer sprang to his feet to strike the mess hall bell as had been done so many times since 1946 when General Roller came in to make his announcements. The bell cracked, and was never used again. "General Roller was such a powerful figure. People related to him more than they related to the school. He was irreplaceable," says Mal.

At the death of the General, the school ownership passed to Mrs. Roller, and to Mal and Linda Livick. Mrs. Roller died in 1969, and the Livicks owned the school from then until it closed in 1984. **Colonel William Gardner** served as principal and superintendent from 1963 until 1966, after which Mal Livick assumed both responsibilities.

The school had its largest Corps in 1963-65. In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled that "separate, but equal" classrooms for blacks and whites were not constitutional. In 1957, the first black child entered a white school in Arlington, Virginia while the state's politicians rallied behind the Governor's "massive resistance" to integration. Public schools closed, and the rolls of private schools swelled; AMA had more than 500 in the Corps of Cadets in the early '60's with four men in almost every room. It is ironic, perhaps, that during this time, the first blacks were admitted to Augusta - three day students who just *happened* to be excellent athletes.

In the early '60's, Defense Secretary McNamara began to cut back on support to military prep schools. The M1 rifles, carried by Augusta cadets since the end of World War II, were recalled. The school was able to purchase surplus Springfield .03's from the US Navy for 50 cents each. Worst of all, the Department of Defense recalled the military personnel who had been Professors of Military Science and Tactics (PMS&T) and, later, Senior Army Instructors (SAI).

When word came early in the Vietnam War that **Neil MacIver, '61**, had been killed in action, there was a great outpouring of grief, tempered with pride that he had given his life in a just cause. But then, as the war dragged on with no resolution in sight, the wisdom of our involvement was more and more questioned. And finally, as the entire nation agonized over the awful conflict from which there seemed to be no exit, the anti-war protestors shouted "shame" at anyone in a military uniform.



Neil MacIver, '61, one of the first Americans to die in the Vietnam War.

Cadets came back from Christmas break to report that they had been ridiculed for wearing their uniforms. A clergyman asked why military prep schools like AMA were training young boys to kill. Rules and regulations were unwelcome; cadets resented having to get short haircuts which, in uniform or out, marked them as people in the military. "We had little parental support, and as a result, discipline suffered mightily at AMA and other military schools," Mal recalls.

In 1968, Mal had attended a meeting of the National Association of Independent Schools where he heard a speaker predict that half of the schools represented at the meeting would be out of business in a decade if they were not underpinned with foundations, churches, or other strong financial support. "After that, we began two programs - the first effort was to make the school a non-profit entity so that tax deductible contributions could be used to sustain it, and the second was to invigorate the AMA Alumni Association."

For years, the AMA Alumni Association was an organization on paper only. There was a President selected by General Roller (**Lewis Mundin, '26**, served for many years), but there were no organized meetings and no effort to keep in touch with alumni after they left Augusta. Thus, there was no reliable mailing list with which to make contact with alumni.

Colonel Savedge, Duke Fancher, '58, George Holt, '60, Dave Conrad, '59, the late Sonny Crockett, '60, and others met with Mal and Linda in Whispering Pines, NC in 1969. The mission: to create an active, supportive AMA alumni association. In 1970, on the Founder's Day weekend in May, there was an Ad Astra reception, and a dinner for alumni at the Ingleside Hotel. The late **Parker Ward, '54**, was elected the first president of the newly reconstituted Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.

"Many alumni made significant contributions during this period," Linda recalled. "**V. P. Leavel, '39**, helped us get the new infirmary in 1975, and **Bill Ditto, '41**, donated and installed the insulation. The late **Paul Long, '51**, gave the school a bus, **John Herring, '47**, donated more than a thousand books to the AMA library, and many other faithful alumni chipped in to help."

In 1975, SMA closed its doors. It took the lawyers and tax experts until 1977 before Augusta became a non-profit organization, with a Board of Trustees selected to make policy. Community leaders, a banker, an architect, some alumni, and Linda were among the trustees. The Trustees leased the land and the buildings from the Livicks, and Mal remained as principal and superintendent. From 1977 until Mal left the superintendency in 1980, there was no charge for the lease. "Linda and I gave all the equipment and supplies,

other than the land and buildings, to the new corporation." Mal recalls.

"We even had some serious talks with SMA officials about a merger, but without success," Linda says. "It had taken so long to get the non-profit status in place that it was impossible to arrest the downward trend." To stem the decline in enrollment, Augusta admitted some boys who had behavioral problems. The Vietnam War, the improvement of public schools, the deterioration of Augusta's physical plant, and the discipline problems all contributed to the irreversible downturn.



General and Mrs. Charles S. Roller, Jr., in the gymnasium, Spring Dance, 29 April 1961.

In 1980, Mal decided that the trustees might do better with new school leadership and he stepped down from management of the school "in the hopes that someone else could create a miracle." For the school year 1980-81, **Doug Neimier, '49**, was superintendent. In 1981-82, **Ronald Green** was hired and **Major Marcus Anderson** was employed to run the military department. In 1982-83, Major Anderson became both superintendent and head of the military department, holding those positions until the school closed.

By 1980, AMA had only some 150 cadets, and in 1982-83, barely 110. The 1983 session opened with just 90 boys on campus. During the Christmas break at the end of 1983, the power company turned off the electricity because the bills had not been paid. One hundred and four years after Professor Roller started a school at Fort Defiance, AMA was gone forever.

"Until we lost our son, Taylor, this was the blackest day in my life," said Linda. "I came back for the auction," Hilton recalls. "It just broke my heart to see all those precious things being sold. I loved that school so much, and I just wish that I could have done something to save it."

Mal went to work at the Blue Ridge Community College, and Linda took a position at Stuart Hall. She retired in June of 1996, and Mal is now Coordinator of Off-Campus Facilities and Instruction at Blue Ridge, with responsibility for both the Waynesboro and the new Harrisonburg centers.

"After the school had closed, I had to go into the gymnasium for some reason one evening," Mal recalls. "As I stood there in the failing light, I swear that I could hear the band playing and the corps cheering as the Blue and White won another basketball game."

Linda and Mal had five children. Mal, Jr. and his family live in Grottoes, and attend the Old Stone Church where Mal, Jr. (as well as his mother, dad and sister, Lee) is an elder. Charlie Roller Livick and his family live in Pennsylvania. Linda Lee Hahn lives in Fort Defiance with her three sons. Todd is a captain in the U.S. Army, and he is at Fort Bragg with his family. Taylor was living in Salem, VA at the time of his death in 1994, at age 27, during a softball game.

Mal, Jr., Charlie, and Todd all graduated from AMA; Taylor attended grades 5-8. Lee attended one summer session (the only female ever enrolled in classes at AMA) and she acted in

AMA drama productions. All the boys were in the Junior Roller Rifles (named for their Grandfather Charles S. Roller, III), and Mal, Charlie, and Todd were senior members of the Roller Rifles. Todd was battalion commander his senior year, Charlie was adjutant, and both were number one choices for Ad Astra.

Today, Fishburne is still operating, supported by a strong alumni association. Fork Union is church-owned and supported. Massanutten, Randolph-Macon, and Hargrave are all co-ed.

As Ed Click calculates, "There had been a Roller's School for 119 years, and an Augusta Military Academy for 94 of them."



Alumni and wives peer into the deserted courtyard during the 1996 annual reunion.

From Colonel Tom Roller's obituary

From the Staunton News-Leader, 12 March 1946

Colonel Thomas J. Roller, 68, co-principal of Augusta Military Academy, died Sunday afternoon at 6 PM in Florida, while visiting his son, Thomas A. Roller. He had been in failing health for some time, but his condition had improved so that he could make the trip.

A son of Colonel Charles S. Roller, Sr. and Rosabelle Judith Moorman Roller, he was born at Fort Defiance in 1877 and lived there all his life. He was a graduate of the University of Virginia, where he made the varsity football and baseball squads, and was a member of Kappa Alpha Fraternity. In 1930, Hampden-Sydney bestowed upon him membership in the national honorary fraternity Omicron Delta Kappa in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the field of education.

Colonel Roller was vice president and director of the Staunton National Bank, for a number of years a director of the Augusta-Rockingham Bank, and was a director of Shenandoah Tailoring Company, Inc. A lifelong member of the Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church, he made a valuable contribution to his neighborhood by adding to the beauty of the church and adjoining cemetery. To the latter project he devoted a great deal of thought and time, and it is considered a memorial to him.

He was a member of the Masonic Order and of the Saints and Sinners. For a number of years he served as a member and chairman of the Augusta County School Board and it was through his efforts that many of the one and two room schools were replaced. He served as President of the Association of Military Schools and Colleges of the United States.

Colonel Roller was a great teacher, endowed with the capacity to inspire and direct young men into successful careers. His influence will be long remembered and cherished.

Gen. Roller, the Big Boy, remembered

From a column by Turner Dozier, '44, Norfolk Ledger-Star, 4 April 1963

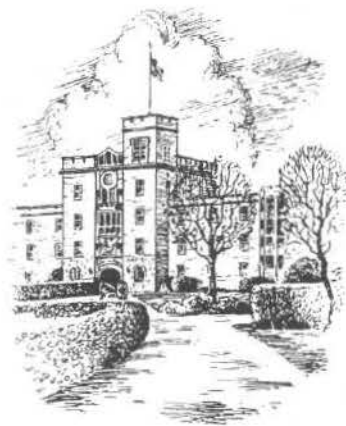
Big Boy is my most unforgettable character. Until his recent death at 83 in Fort Defiance, General Charles S. Roller symbolized an individuality that pioneers are cut from. There may never be another quite like him.

To thousands of bug-eyed cadets who stood quaking in their shoes before him, the general was an old-fashioned disciplinarian. He was principal of Augusta Military Academy, a prep school nestled snugly in the Shenandoah Valley across the Blue Ridge Mountains. God's country. The general feared no one. As an All-Southern quarterback and running mate of George C. Marshall, Roller's spirit and drive fired VMI to great football deeds in the year 1900. Only Georgetown scored on the Keydets.

They called him the Big Boy until the day he died. The name was appropriate, for even in his late 70s, he stood 5-11, weighed 185 pounds and had amazing physical strength. "Take it to the Big Boy" we used to say at Augusta, referring to our daily problems, and the major, as we knew him then, would eat it up. During football games on the parade grounds, Big Boy used to place his chair in the other team's end zone squarely between the goal posts and when his cadets had the ball would implore them to "bring it to the Big Boy."

Senator Curry Carter of Staunton, a longtime friend, said: "He was without superior in handling men. The general had a faculty for inspiring enthusiasm." The general coached for 30 years, said a Staunton chronicler in 1958, "and it is not strange to see him leave the 'Grey Ghost,' his 1936 Dodge, to show the boys a few football plays." "He was a strict man, yes," said one man, "but his discipline was tempered with a long measure of kindness." "A man's man," said another. "His boys feared and respected him." "One of the strongest men I ever knew."

"Augusta
gave me
more than
I could
ever have
imagined."



"AMA changed my life... I don't know where I would be today if it weren't for Augusta Military Academy."

"AMA was my family..."

"Augusta turned me around and made a man out of me... I would not have made much out of life without AMA..."

Now, there's a way to honor AMA. Support the *Bayonet* - support the AMA Legacy Scholarship Fund and the VMI Scholarship Fund. Keep AMA's name and ideals alive. Mail your check today to the AMA Alumni Association, P.O. Box 101, Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0101.

Augusta Memories...

John Spears Webster, '27, told his son John, Jr. that "AMA claimed to have the toughest men in the world. Their reasoning: the AMA football team beat VMI in a scrimmage; VMI had just beaten Army; and the American Army had defeated the Germans in World War II!" John, Jr. reports that his father passed away in 1981.

Lewis Towers, '32, was able to attend AMA only one year. "It was in the middle of the great depression, but I have been eternally grateful for that one year at Augusta. It made an indelible mark on my life for which I am thankful. Every young man can benefit from the training at a good military school. I am so sorry that AMA no longer exists..."

George Adam, '35, "was talked into attending summer camp by **Major Brinkley** so I could get a reserve commission when I was 21. On 29 December 1941, I was inducted as a second lieutenant into the 7th Army Division... We cleaned out some Japanese on Attu in the Aleutians, Kwajalein in the Marshalls, Leyte in the Philippines, and Okinawa. I came out a captain with two silver stars, two bronze stars, two purple hearts, and the knowledge that the Pacific is one hell of an ocean, and that only a complete damned fool would stay in the infantry voluntarily."

Bill Gray, '37, says that "The Big Boy came into barracks about 3 AM, announcing, 'Corporal of the Guard. I want to inspect the barracks.'" I responded, 'Yes, sir!', and as we went into one room, a sleepy cadet rose up and smacked **Major Roller** right in the eye. He said, 'Corporal, the inspection is over,' and for the next week, Major Roller wore dark glasses."



Les Higbee, '35, and Irene at the 1995 AMA Alumni Reunion. Irene is wearing Les' dress jacket from his days at Augusta. Les passed away this past December.

Mickey Gordon, '39, recalls that the late **Les Higbee, '35**, was his company commander in his first year at Augusta. "Les was voted most military cadet, best commissioned officer, and neatest cadet by his fellow cadets. He was leader of the Final Ball, a great cheerleader, and a tremendous swimmer who won a monogram. He and his wife Irene have been staunch supporters of the AMA Alumni Association with Irene organizing tennis tournaments at many AMA reunions..."

Master Sergeant John Wallace was with the Military Department at AMA, and remembers that sometime in the '50's, "Some cadets were playing tennis on a very hot day, and they had removed their shirts. **Colonel Roller** came around the corner and the cadets dropped to the ground to avoid being caught out of uniform. But the Colonel had spotted them and yelled, 'Come on, you snakes. Get out of the grass and back in uniform!'"

Paul Taliaferro, '62, says that living in Winchester "gives me the opportunity to get by the old place occasionally. About a year ago, I pulled in to visit and ran into **Robbie Rhodes, '63**, who was visiting also. We spent several hours wandering around, feeling the old memories flare up... I visited VMI in January of this year and was truly amazed at how much the AMA Big Barracks resemble the main barracks at VMI."

Michael de Ayora, '65, recalls that "**General Roller** would go over spelling words, particularly 'all right' and 'alright'... he would ask us how long we had studied the words, and each of us would answer three or four minutes. He would then say, 'Three or four hours, good!'..."

Rex Rumley, '69, says that the "camaraderie at Augusta was truly unbelievable. I roomed with **Harry Rubens** my senior year. He was a junior and had been there since the third grade. He knew how to avoid more work than most of us ever thought of! Then, there was **Sergeant Rosenbauer** who would always say, 'I am sick and tired of being sick and tired.'"

Ron "Scootch" Melcher, '71, tells us that "**Bill Trudell** got out of the Marines and became a mailman. I called his house, talked with his wife, and learned that my friend Bill had died of cancer..."

Reed Mettles, '72, wonders if "anyone remembers having to bribe **Reed** to open the Uniform Room because you had lost a hat or a belt. It was costly at times, depending on who you were, of course!"



SPOTLIGHT on ED LEVENTEN, '46

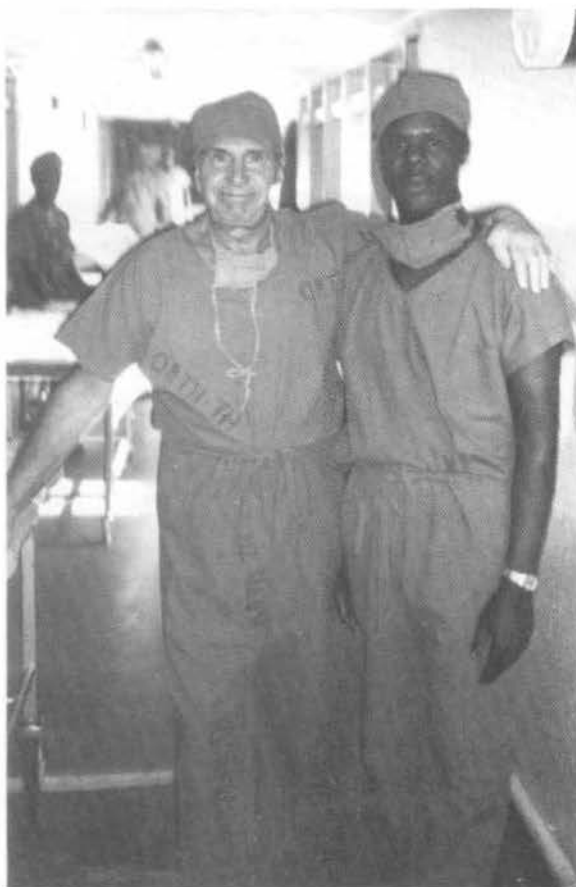
Six weeks volunteering in Uganda, right on the Equator. Six hot weeks helping to train doctors, and healing those already crippled and diseased.

That's how **Dr. Edward Leventen, '46**, spent the year end holidays in 1996. Travelling under the auspices of *Health Volunteers Overseas*, Ed was assigned to Mulago Hospital in Kampala, a huge government facility.

"We did lots of surgery, and I trained the doctors there to do surgery," says Leventen. "We operated mostly on children crippled with polio, and we did corrective surgery on children with clubfeet and osteomyelitis."

Ed arrived in Uganda on 10 November and did not depart until the end of December. "I saw there many congenital problems I had never before encountered."

He could have spent the holidays in Southern California where he is an orthopaedic surgeon. Leventen also is a Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at UCLA. He and his wife, Ruth, live in Encino, near Los Angeles.



Dr. Ed Leventen with a Ugandan surgeon, Mulago Hospital, Kampala, Uganda.

(Ed's office is on Wilshire Boulevard in LA)

After he left AMA, Leventen attended the University of Virginia for pre-med and medical school. He served in the US Air Force Medical Corps and was stationed for a time in Libya.

In 1958, he became an orthopaedic resident at Bellevue Hospital, part of New York University. From 1964 until 1992, he was a professor of orthopaedic surgery at Kaiser Hospital.

"The work in Uganda was extremely rewarding," Ed says. "I plan to go again next year. I needed to have an exciting adventure while I am still young enough to enjoy and appreciate it."

For a hobby, he has selected rock climbing. It appears that Dr. Edward Leventen doesn't choose the safe or easy path in either his work or in his play. An Augusta man to be proud of!

REGISTER NOW
for the 1997 AMA Reunion
Return the blue form today!

Alumni and friends continue financial support of association

We are pleased to report that these Augusta alumni and friends have made contributions to the AMA Alumni Association, Inc. since the publication of the January *Bayonet*.

Contributions may be directed to one of three funds. The VMI Scholarship Fund underwrites four annual grants to VMI cadets, honoring AMA's close ties to VMI. The AMA Legacy Scholarship Fund provides an annual \$1,000 grant to the child or grandchild of an AMA alumnus. The Operating Fund pays for *The Bayonet*, the Locator Project, and covers administrative costs. We thank everyone who has made a contribution!

\$500 or more

Steve Matton, '67

Mac McInnis, '67

in memory of Rob Nichol, '67

\$100 to \$500

Anonymous

Robert Cooper, '66

Duke Fancher, '58

Hilton Roller Grasty

in memory of Colonel Tom Roller

Baxter Hayes, '70

Rodgers Huff, '50

Jerry Izenberg, '47

Virginia Mahanes

in memory of Ronnie Mahanes, '53

John B. Minor, '42

in memory of Fuller Dibrell, '42

Louis Philhower, '49

Carl S. Riedell, '63

Jack and Betty Spigle

in memory of Stephen Mark Spigle, '74

Lars Steib, '74

Donald Studer, Faculty '69-'72

Alan Venzer, '44

in memory of Arthur Stern, '44

\$50 to \$100

George E. Adam, '35

Larry Horowitz, '73

George T. Leatherman, II, '39

in memory of John Leatherman, '41

Lee R. Steeley, '57

Dr. Edward Leventen, '46

in memory of Arthur Eichelbaum, '41

Up to \$50

Lucius Chapin, '63

Victor Dalmás, '41

John J. Fox, '53

in memory of Edwin Fox, '15

Mickey Gordon, '39

in memory of Les Higbee, '35

Frank Hawkins, Jr., '45

James Hunter, '59

Bill Jaeger, '58

Chip Lazarus, '51

Herbert L. McCawley, '43

in honor of Captain Paul Hoover

Noelle Nicholson, mother of Larry, '75

Ralph "Rip" Parker, '51

Leo Poole, father of Alan, '67

in memory of his wife, Juanita

Jack Russell, '50, and Lenore

Reginald Stafford, '51

Louis Suter, '65

Steven M. Traylor, '72

in memory of John Naylor West, '70

David Trimble, '60

AMA Alumni Association, Inc.

1997 AMA REUNION

MAY 2-4 - STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

HOLIDAY INN GOLF AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Thursday, May 1

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION -
Holiday Inn Golf & Conference Center
1-81 at Country Club Road (Exit 225)

5:30 - 10:00 PM - INFORMAL SOCIAL

(Donations of food, drink, and/or cash appreciated for all 3 days
for the Hospitality Room)

Friday, May 2

Golf and tennis available, Holiday Inn
Golf & Conference Center

All Day REGISTRATION, AMA Hospitality Room

7:00 PM SOCIAL, Holiday Inn

7:30 PM DINNER, Grand Ballroom

Saturday, May 3

7:00 - 9:00 AM BREAKFAST available at Holiday Inn

10:00 AM ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, Grand Ball Room
Election of Directors
Reports

After Annual Meeting BOARD OF DIRECTORS Meeting (All alumni invited)
Election of Officers

10:15 AM LADIES meet in Holiday Inn lobby for shopping, lunch, tours

3:00 PM FOUNDER'S DAY CEREMONIES, Old Stone Church Cemetery

After Founder's Day Ceremonies TOUR AMA CAMPUS

6:00 PM SOCIAL

7:00 PM ANNUAL BANQUET
Grand Ball Room

(CASH BAR) (A Silent Auction will take place during the dinner [see box above])

8:00 PM Individual introductions by class

Special honors to the Classes of '37, '47, '57, '67, '72 and '77

Special honors to the Roller and Livick families

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**The Hospitality Room will be open Thursday
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You are welcome !**

**Send in the enclosed
blue registration form
TODAY!**

If yours is missing, send your name,
class, address, and phone number to
AMA Alumni Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 101
Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0101

**We will have a SILENT AUCTION during dinner
on Saturday. Do you have something, worth at
least \$25, to donate? Please bring to the
banquet on Saturday night! Thank you!**

TAPS



Please report deaths and illnesses of AMA Alumni to the AMA Chaplain, Bill Gray, '37. 5111 - 8th Road, South, #107 Arlington, VA 22204-2817 Phone: 703/820-4781

William S. Phillips, Jr., '32
6 December 1996, Manassas, VA.

Lester Higbee, Sr., '35
23 December 1996, at Presbyterian Medical Center, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Owner of Home Liquor Store in Pleasantville, PA for more than 50 years. University of Maryland. Past commodore, Pleasantville Yacht Club; avid skier, tennis player. Test pilot and flight instructor, World War II. Survived by his wife, Irene; a son, Lester, Jr.; and a daughter, Sally.

Norval Edgar Byrd, Jr., '36
20 February 1993

Henley H. Denmead, '37
No details available.

William Louis Adam, '40
27 September 1996, Midland, TX. BA and MA from University of Michigan following World War II service in US Air Force. Managing partner, Western States Well Logging in 1951; independent geologist since 1953. Midland County Republican Party Chairman; founder, Young Republican's Club and Republican Men's Club. One of five brothers to attend AMA between 1926 and 1940. Survived by his wife, Elizabeth; a son, Phil Dolbow of Mid-

land; a daughter, Julie Jumper of Midland; two brothers, **George Adam, '35**, of League City, TX and **Sinclair Adam, '32**, of West Chester, PA; and four grandchildren.

Paul H. Heatwole, '49
8 January 1997, Rockingham Memorial Hospital, Harrisonburg. Lived in Bridgewater for last 30 years where he was an artist and photographer for Bridgewater College, of which he was an alumnus. Paul's family owned Heatwole's Restaurant in Burkettown, between Harrisonburg and Fort Defiance. Survived by a sister, Maryanne Cox of Fredericksburg; and six nieces and nephews.

John Smyton, '50
1994. No details available.

Donald Thomas, '51
31 January 1997, at University Medical Center, Charlottesville. Former employee of Westinghouse, and later Hollister, Inc. from which he retired in 1995. Lived in Fishersville. Played baseball at AMA. Survived by his wife, Jane; his mother; a son, Mat Thomas of Staunton; and two grandchildren.

Edward D. Daughtrey, '56
20 June 1996, in Gulfport, MS, at age 58. Retired from Air Force in 1977 after 20 years service; Sailing Director of Gulfport Yacht Club. Survived by his wife, Deborah; two daughters, Sherri Michalowski and Barbara Daughtrey, both of Port Washington, WI; two sons, Bryan and Doug, both of Gulfport; and three grandchildren.

John P. Manor, '58
5 February 1997, at Fairfax (VA) Hospital, of Crohn's Disease, a gastrointestinal ailment, age 58. Video engineer of ABC's *Nightline* television program. Born in Lansing, MI; lived in Alexandria, VA; attended Randolph-Macon and George Washington University. Member, American Chemical Society. Survived by his wife, Alice; one son, Thomas, of Boston; two daughters, Jody of Washington, DC and Jennifer of Centerville, VA; his parents, Charles and Edith Manor; a sister; and three brothers.

William H. Trudell, Jr., '69
Native of Big Chimney, WV. Date of death unknown.

PERSONAL EXCHANGE

Looking for a lost roommate, or an AMA cap? Look here! If you can help, contact Ed Click, P.O. Box 101, Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0101. 540/248-0507.

Wanted: *Recalls* from 1921, '22, '23, '26, and '27. My Dad and my Uncle Henry attended AMA those years. **John Webster**

Seeking: Friends from '56 to '58 - Dick Mower, Ed Phelps. **Lee Steeley, '57**

Offered: AMA catalog from 1947; football programs from 1949-50; *Bayonets* and *Recalls* from those years; Eisenhower jacket in good condition. **Lloyd "Chip" Lazarus, '51**

Wanted: 1944 *Recall*. **Alan Venzer, '44**

Wanted to borrow: For our AMA Locator Project, I need to borrow *Recalls* from the following years: 1914, 1921, 1927, 1932, 1954, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982, and any year before 1914. I will copy the rosters and return the *Recalls* to the senders. **Ed Click, '50**

Seeking: My old CW roommates **Craig Roberts, '61**, and **Joe Payne, '63**. "Rod" **Aquiles Rodriguez, '62**

Offered: 1956, 1960 and 1963 *Recalls* in exchange for generous donation to AMA Alumni Association. **Duke Fancher, '58**

Wanted: 1962 *Recall*, to purchase or borrow. **Paul Taliaferro, '62**



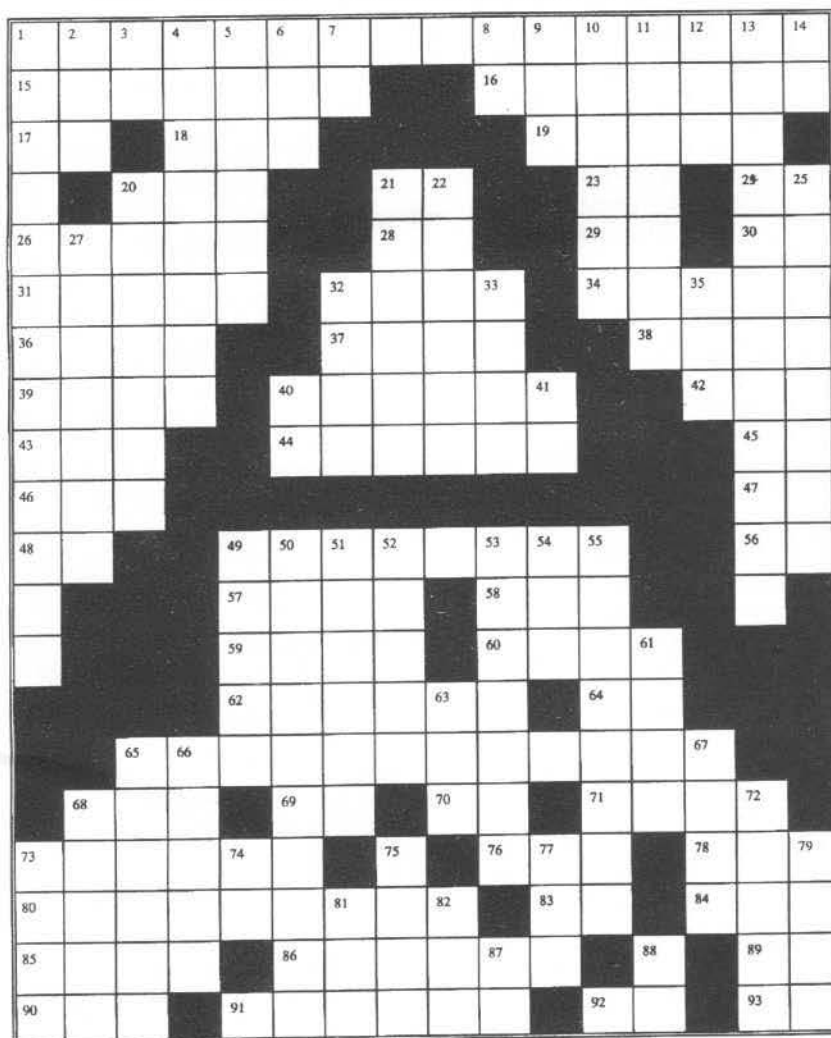
HAVE NO FEAR!

LOG ON
to the
AMA Homepage

IT WON'T HURT A BIT!

<http://hudson.idt.net/~recase>

THE "BIG A" CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. Motto over Front Arch
15. Disarrange rifles
16. Book you received before you attended Augusta
17. Gingrich state
18. ___ Boy!
19. Colonel Tom Roller died in ___ Gables
20. Belly
21. Colonel Deane (init.)
23. Pan-American organ., ___ S
24. Cal. city
26. Shorthand taker
28. Exclamation of surprise
29. Cop unit (init.)
30. Easter Seals (init.)
31. Faithful Indian companion
32. Yearn
34. Prophets
36. Small hollow in a surface (prefix)
37. Clinton office shape
38. Location
39. ___ bread, messhall favorite
40. German city or state
42. Extremely high micrograph (init.)
43. "___ clear day..."
44. Town outside Staunton

45. Baby doc
46. Utility (abv.)
47. AMA principal (init.)
48. Negative
49. AMA eatery
56. Sorrow or distress call (Eng.)
57. Robert E.
58. International Union of Electricians (init.)
59. Re, pro, or e follower
60. AMA rival
62. Indian and Arctic
64. Either's mate
65. Roller/Livick hometown
68. Seven, to Caesar
69. Old English (init.)
70. Rank under col.
71. Hail a ship
73. ___ Roll Call
76. Young goat
78. Tennis barrier
80. Anti-aircraft NCO
83. George III or Henry VIII (init.)
84. Symbionese Liberation Army (init.)
85. Ailments
86. What you could not do in ranks
89. Played at 33 1/3
90. Solid, liquid, or ___
91. Clapper place

92. Highway in front of AMA
93. Nazi military unit (init.)

DOWN

1. AMA locale
2. OJ trial stuff
3. ___ the crow flies
4. Mary Baldwin town
5. Sunday night bugle call
6. NBC parent
7. Clinton state (abv.)
8. Cola drink
9. American Association of Consultants (init.)
10. Augusta floors
11. AMA Sunday traditions
12. Israel airline (abv.)
13. Sibling of Roller, Charles
14. Adjutant General (init.)
20. Big Boy title
21. Colonel P. V.

22. Forceful person
25. Collection of cadets
27. Blue Jay's hometown
32. Traditional teaching
33. Valley
35. ___ I O
40. ___ D t-shirts

41. North America (init.)
49. Big Boy title
50. The voters
51. Virginia did this in 1861
52. Cords, sinews
53. Stratosphere nausea
54. Abner's partner
55. Spring messhall citrus drink
61. Main entrance to courtyard
63. Football organ.
65. Last exams or dance
66. Swine noises
67. Many long times
68. Country house
72. AMA football cheers
73. Director of the Faith in God (init.)
74. Same as 30A
75. End of week exclamation (init.)
77. U.S. President who visited AMA
79. Last bugle call of the day
81. Railroad lines (abv.)
82. Eastern France (abv.)
87. Suffix meaning characteristic of
88. AMA rifle in the '50's

Puzzle solution
on page 20

Letters to the editor

(continued from page 2)

part to inspiration from my experience at the AMA reunion banquet last May, I saw the value of commitment and am now rowing - and growing.

The AMA Scholarship also stands for leadership and community involvement. As a result, I spent many long days and nights with markers, scissors, glue, pins and several friends. When the dust settled, we had hung catchy signs and passed out more than a hundred campaign buttons, each unique. My bid for Williams College Council, the main student government body, was successful. Since then, I have talked closely with the freshmen I represent, collected on-line opinions, and I have spoken out on several issues affecting the college community. Policy-making committee assignments put me in engaging contact with the top college administrators.

The evening I spent with my family and other AMA graduates (at the 1996 reunion) was very inspirational. I hope that I can feel as proud of my school as I sensed the AMA graduates are. In addition to inspiration, the AMA scholarship gives me the financial support that reduces my employment load, allowing me to pursue meaningful activities. Thank you for your support of my educational process. So far, it has been very satisfying!

Albert R. Leatherman III
Grandson of
George Leatherman, '39

Register now!
1997 AMA
REUNION

For hotel reservations, call
toll free 1/800/932-9061

Association receives money from estate

The AMA Alumni Association, Inc. has received the first \$15,000 of an estimated \$30,000 from the estate of the late Laurada Gladys Dobson of Richmond.

Association Counsel **Bobby Rhea**, '47, presented the first check to the Association Board at its 15 February meeting in New Market. **Gary Nicholson**, '70, President of the Association, has appointed a committee to determine how the funds can be used to honor Ms. Dobson's expressed wishes.



Gary Nicholson

Nominating Committee

The Board Nominating Committee, chaired by **Rob Willey**, '51, has nominated **Goodloe Saunders**, '57, as President of the Association, to be elected during the May reunion. Gary previously had announced that he would not seek reelection.

Other nominees are **Bob Bradford**, '50, Vice President; **Clyde Ramsey**, '49, Secretary; **Ed Click**, '50, Treasurer; and **Bill Gray**, '37, Chaplain. Bradford, Ramsey, Click and Gray hold those same positions now. Willey

explained that nominations will be welcomed from the floor at the May membership meeting.

The Board heard **Tommy Simmons**, '53, outline final plans for the reunion. There will be a dinner on Friday night at the Holiday Inn Golf and Conference Center, and the Saturday night banquet also will be held at the Holiday Inn.

The Board agreed to reimburse officers of the Association for unusual expenses relating to the operation of the Association. Treasurer Ed Click reported on the success of the return envelopes in recent issues of *The Bayonet* in funding the AMA and VMI Scholarship Funds and *The Bayonet*.

The VMI Scholarship Program remains underfunded, according to Click. "We need a few thousand dollars more in principal to generate sufficient earnings to underwrite the VMI scholarships over the next few years," said Click.



"I like the ambiance of the Valley Pike, but I-81 has better food."

THE "BIG A" CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.